

What is claimed:

1. A grading rake which comprises:
  - (a) an elongated handle having a one end and an other end;
  - (b) a holder for a rake head;
  - (c) a traverse rake head, the holder securing the handle at an angle to the rake head; and
  - (d) a plurality of generally uniformly spaced apart tines extending downwardly from a lower surface of the rake head, the tines composed of a polymer material and characterized by being stiff, but bendable in use, without permanently bending or breaking.
2. The rake of claim 1 wherein the polymer is a nylon polymer.
3. The rake of claim 1 wherein the tines are composed of a cylindrical solid polymer.
4. The rake of claim 1 wherein the tines have a truncated end surface that forms a planar surface which is parallel to the plane formed by the handle and rake head.
5. The rake of claim 1 wherein the traverse rake head comprises a generally cylindrical rake head with holes therethrough and the tines inserted and fastened in said holes.
6. A grading rake which comprises:
  - (a) an elongated handle having a one end and an other end;
  - (b) a holder for the rake head; a traverse rake head, the holder securing the handle at an angle to the rake head; and
  - (c) a plurality of generally uniformly spaced apart tines extending downwardly from a lower surface of the rake head, the tines composed of a polymer material and characterized by being stiff, but bendable in use, without

permanently bending or breaking, which rake head comprises a generally cylindrical rake head with holes therethrough and the tines inserted and fastened in said holes.

7. The rake of claim 6 wherein the tines comprise solid cylindrical nylon tines.

8. The rake of claim 6 wherein the tines have a tapered end surface of about 30-60 degrees that taper toward the user.

9. A method of grading particulate matter containing certain undesirable relatively large particles, using a grading rake which comprises an elongated handle having a front end and a back end; a traverse rake head; a holder for the rake head, the holder securing the front end of the handle, at an angle, to the rake head; and a plurality of generally uniformly spaced apart tines extending downwardly from a lower surface of the rake head, the tines composed of a polymer material and characterized by being stiff, but bendable in use, without permanently bending or breaking, comprising the steps of:

- (a) pushing the rake head forward across to particulate matter to smooth the surface of the matter, and
- (b) drawing the rake head back so the a the tines engage, elevate, and separate the large particles from the particulate matter.

10. A method of grading particulate matter, as recited in claim 9, wherein the tines extend rearwardly from a lower surface of the rake head.

11. A method of grading particulate matter, as recited in claim 9, wherein the tines are formed of nylon.

12. A method of grading particulate matter, as recited in claim 9, wherein the tines with truncated free ends which form a planar surface which is parallel to a plane defined by the handle and rake head.